

Plantation of environmentally useful trees

[†]1423. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that trees have been cut on a large scale at many places in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to encourage the people to plant the trees which are useful from environmental point of view; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no report with the Central Government about large scale cutting of trees in the country. However, in cases of illegal felling of trees, action is taken by the State Government concerned under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant Acts for the time being in force.

The Central/State Governments have taken steps under various plan schemes to plant trees on Government and private lands with a view to increasing the forests/tree cover and to ensure amelioration of environment. The total State sector outlays for forests during the year 2000-2001, as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 1393 crores, around 60% of which is spent on afforestation and regeneration activities. An amount of Rs. 500 crores has also been allocated for implementation of afforestation projects in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan through the National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Environmental clearance to projects

1424. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the details of projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) the details of financial amount allocated for protection of environment and forest during the last three years; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) Fifty nine development projects (25 Industrial, 11 Thermal Power, 4 River Valley, 6 Mining and 13 Infrastructural Development) were awaiting environmental clearance as on 31st March, 2001. To expedite decision on pending project proposals, continuous interaction is maintained with project authorities for early submission of requisite information and meetings of the Expert Committees are held at regular intervals.

(b) Funds allocated for protection of environment and forests during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Amount |
|-----------|--------|
| 1998-99 | 704.09 |
| 1999-2000 | 700.00 |
| 2000-2001 | 850.00 |

International aid for increasing forest area

†1425. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special measures are being taken at present to increase forest area in country;

(b) whether any scheme, aided by various international agencies, is being implemented or is under consideration for this purpose; and

(c) in what manner World Bank aided U.P. Forestry Project is being bifurcated, after formation of Uttaranchal and what is the share

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